

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Digital Repository

Carver Academy Student Narratives

Carver Academy

Fall 2012

Final Narrative

Michael C. Henderson

Iowa State University, mchender@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/carver_narratives



Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Henderson, Michael C., "Final Narrative" (2012). *Carver Academy Student Narratives*. 26.
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/carver_narratives/26

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Carver Academy at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Carver Academy Student Narratives by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

College is four of the greatest years of your life or at least that is what everyone says to you when you go to college. I think they say that because of all the great people you meet and this newfound freedom you have. Another reason is because of the new experiences and adventures you can have.

When I was trying to decide on what college to go to I had it narrowed down to either Winona State or Iowa State. In high school I worked on a super mileage car and did a lot of work with carbon fiber and fiberglass. After that I had a huge interest in composite materials and I found out that Winona State had composite materials major and Iowa State had a materials engineering major. I was going to go to Winona until I got an interesting letter from Iowa State. I got a letter saying I was awarded the George Washington Carver scholarship and that the return letter was a due a month after I got the letter. So I sent the letter back saying how I received the letter and was hoping I could still get the scholarship. I got a letter a month later saying yes you are still awarded the scholarship. So that's the story on how I choose Iowa State.

At the beginning of the summer before my freshman year I made one of the greatest choices of my life by joining Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Also I meet my roommate Drew before school started and that was the start to some crazy days. On the first night that Drew and I spent in our dorm we meet only one person. We ended up walking down the hallway and meet Mike and his now to be wife Alex. We left our door open all day and just played video games and would have invited anyone to join us if we saw them. We decided to go and eat dinner at seven pm and man was that a mistake. We went to almost all of the dinning centers except UDCC

because it was on the other side of campus. So we spent an hour walking around trying to find dinner. After that we walked from Birch all to Drew's car in the parking lot by the stadium, which was another twenty-minute walk. After going up and down Duff to see all of our choices we decided that we wanted to eat Wendy's. After that we couldn't find Wendy's for like five minutes because the Wendy's sign was hidden behind another store's sign. Then we thought the Wendy's parking lot was connected to another park lot and it wasn't. So we finally got Wendy's and got back to our room at like 9. I don't think Wendy's has ever tasted so good before as it did that night. Once Drew and I moved in we slowly but surely meet all of the guys on our floor in Birch Lange. I find it kind of funny because the first week I moved in I meet 2 groups of guys that I could go to whenever I have any problem. One of them being my fraternity brother and the other being the guys I lived with on the fourth floor of Birch. Through the first semester I experienced a lot of cool things. One of the coolest experiences was the Cyclone football games. I watched Ames fill up with seventy thousand people for the Iowa vs. Iowa State game. Then I watched as the Cyclones ruined Oklahoma State's chance at a BCS national championship. Then I watched as Iowa State beat Kansas in basketball, which was just as crazy as the Oklahoma State football game! I think it was mid October when I went to my first concert. It was the Lupe Fiasco concert and it was fantastic and that was the first of three I went to in my first year. One of the coolest things about this concert was he used the video footage from the concert in one of his music videos. The other two concerts I went to were during Veisha. The Veisha concerts weren't as good because the performers weren't as good as Lupe. Those are something I will never forget as

long as I live. That's one of the best parts of going to big University is all the sporting events you get to see some of the craziest games and experience some of the funniest things you couldn't even imagine like storming the field with fifty thousand people.

I think people have the wrong idea about the Greek system in general. People think all they do is drink. The Greek system does a lot of good for the community. All houses require their members to do community service. Also most Greek houses pay for tutors and its not just one it is any many as you need. I'm not trying to preach to go Greek. I'm just saying don't judge people until you get to know them. It has been a great experience though because half the guys in my house have the same classes as I do. This makes studying for test and learning the material so much easier because you can pick more then one persons brain. Though my pledging semester I experience all of this and I do still to this with my brothers. Then there is the group of guys that I lived with on my floor. I found out that half of us lived within a twenty minutes of each other. As the semester continued you started to get in a routine to eat at the same time everyday. They end being like brother and family. One guy that we live is getting married this summer and most of us are going to be in his wedding and we have all only known each other for a year. That is how close you get to the people that with in a year of knowing someone they ask you to be in the most important moment of their life. That is one thing about living in the dorms you must leave your door open or you will never meet anybody.

Since I am part of the Greek system I get to do a lot of things other student don't get to do. For homecoming my house takes part in lawn display, yell like hell and volunteer opportunities. Yell like hell is a sort of a short musical that is suppose to bring school pride. So your skit has a theme and our theme was There Is No Place Like Iowa State. It was a play off the Wizard of Oz. So you had songs that you had to yell, dance and they would tell a story. It was a lot of hard work and kept me really busy my first semester since we practice for 6 hours a week three days a week. We had practice for almost 2.5 months! It was a lot of fun because we were paid with a sorority. So we got to know a lot of these girls and they became our good friends. Then lawn display is kind of like Yell Like Hell except we use our yard a stage and we use voice over to tell the story as people act it out. A lot of alumni and families from the community come to watch Yell Like Hel and lawn display. Next big event would be Greek week. During this we do community service and then there is competitions between the fraternity and sorority pairings. Also this is the weekend will high school kids get to come and see the Greek system. So we do the competitions to show the fun and teamwork the Greek system has between houses. The biggest event on campus, but now is a dying tradition is VEISHEA! Ton of people's friends and family come to join in the festivities. My fraternity is the only on which still makes a Veishea float. Making the float was one of the best things I've even done. I helped make a two chassis float that was sixty feet long. Along with the float we had to make a barn to protect the float for the weather. It was sad because we had to make two barns. What happened was the week that first barn went up we had wind gust of fifty miles an hour and it ended up blowing the barn over. Nobody

was hurt and no property was damaged but the barn was totaled. The problem was one the wind and the second problem was the wood we used wasn't thick enough. So the next Sunday we started putting up the new barn. People started putting the barn up early in the afternoon and I helped out a little bit before work session. Then after chapter the co chairs asked people to help them put up the barn. Co chairs are the people in charge of the Veishea float. So I went home got my winter jacket and gloves and some warm clothes. We ended up staying up till five in the morn finishing the sixty-foot long and twenty-foot tall barn. It was funny because we put the second barn up in one night and the first barn took a week to build. The float had an Up theme where the front chassis was the blimp and mountain from Up. Then the back chassis was the old man's house with the balloons and we had all the important characters on the float. We were told from several people that the only reason they come to the parade is to see our float. That makes building the float so much better and it makes me feel good that we can keep that tradition alive for now. Now I live in the fraternity house, which is kind of overwhelming because I basically have fifty roommates and there are six showers between all of us. Also it is kind of weird because where we sleep it called the racks. In the racks it is a big room where all of us sleep. So you can hear everything that is going on in the room. So if one person snores everyone can hear that person. Also sometimes people fall out of bed so every can hear that and it can wake you up. I like living in the house because we have our own cook and her name is Gail. She is one of the nicest women I have even meet. She is like a mom to all of us. If we need a stain removed or get sick she is

always willing to help us. Also I like having a cook because I was getting real sick of the dorm food.

College is about opportunity and a chance at a better life. The one thing you should know about this scholarship is that it is a chance at a better. It is a chance to go through college with little to no loans and to start the out in the working world without debt. The scholarship tries to open your eye to how to world and the problems in it. All I can say is keep your grades up so you don't lose this scholarship. College is about new friends and experience, but more importantly it is about the life long experience you will learn.